

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The priority papers were filed with the original application papers and their receipt was acknowledged in the above-mentioned Examiner's Action. The undersigned hereby reiterates the priority claim made in the earlier-filed Declaration.

The specification has been amended to eliminate some minor obvious errors. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

Claim 1 has been amended, principally by incorporation into it of some of the subject matter of now amended claim 3 and all of the subject matter of now canceled claim 5. In addition this amendment places in the case a new claim 10 which corresponds to amended claim 1 plus all the subject matter of original claims 3 and 5.

Before going into a discussion of the cited prior art, it is important to note that the instant invention is aimed at a contact assembly intended to connect two things together electrically. The actual main cited application is a battery connector

for a cell phone. Thus the principle aim of this invention is to make such a contact assembly that is as thin as possible.

This is achieved by two main features: .

1. Forming the individual contacts so at least one contact leg can move through the greatest possible distance when the contact is compressed between the two terminals it is connecting.
2. Constituting the contact so that, in spite of its low profile, it bears with considerable force on at least one of the contacts.

These objects are achieved in two manners:

1. Forming the central leg of the contact with cutout so a tip of one of the legs can actually move past it, whereby the travel of this one leg is not limited to the distance between it and the central web.
2. Prestressing one of the legs outward against an abutment on the mounting block so that at first contact with, for instance, a battery terminal, deflection of this one leg takes quite some force, ensuring a solid electrical connection.

Thus amended claim 1 describes as shown in FIGS. 1-7 a A contact assembly comprising:

- a dielectric mounting block 11 having inner and outer faces; and

- a conductive contact 12 unitarily formed of elastically deformable metal with

- a center web 15 set in the block 11 and

- formed with a cutout 31,

- an inner leg 14 extending from the web 15

- past the inner face and elastically

- deflectable toward the inner face and

- toward the center web 15, and

- an outer leg 13 extending from the web 15,

- having a tip 27, and elastically

- deflectable from an outer position

- (FIGS. 3 & 4) spaced well outward of

- the outer face and spaced from the

- web 15 to an inner position (FIGS. 6

- & 7) with the tip 27 extending at

- least partially inward through the

- cutout 31 and past the web 15.

The main reference, US patent 6,000,969 of Reichard, does not have an outer arm with a tip that can move past the web 16. Nothing in the drawing or specification suggests such a possibil-

ity. The examiner's analysis of original claim 1 on page 2 of the Action apparently ignored this feature of original claim 1 so that, even prior to amendment, claim 1 was clearly allowable over Reichard under §102. Furthermore, nothing in Reichard suggest a "cutout" through which an outer-leg tip can pass, so this feature is also novel. Since Reichard does not suggest the possibility of providing a cutout through which a tip could pass, no §103 rejection on Reichard is possible.

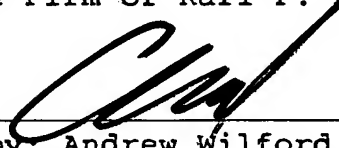
The second applied reference, US patent 6,196,883 of Bechaz has as best seen in FIGS. 4 and 5 a central web 4 that is extended through a hole 10, 14 in an outer leg 6. While seemingly bearing some resemblance to the structure of claims 1 and 10, actually this is an altogether different assembly. The only structures that are comparable to the inner and outer legs of the instant invention are the two parallel arms 6 and 20. Here the connection is supposed to be made to a conductor of a wire 18 with both the inner and outer legs, and the whole "inner"/"outer" orientation of the legs and parts defined in claims 1 and 10 is not seen in Bechaz. Clearly no rejection under §102 on Bechaz is possible, nor in fact was one made. Furthermore, only a person who had carefully studied the instant application would possibly be able to modify Reichard and Bechaz to come up with something like the structure of claims 1 and 10, and such a hindsight rejection is

plainly not permissible. Thus the rejection of claims 5-7 on the combination of Reichard in view of Bechaz must fall.

As expressly defined structure of the two main claims 1 and 10 is not seen in nor suggested by either of the applied references, allowance of all claims and passage to Issue is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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01 September 2004
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